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NASA Administrator, Sen. Lott tour Stennis; view SSME test firing

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe added certified test conductor to his impressive resume when he visited Stennis Space Center Feb. 21. With the push of a button, O'Keefe started a 520-second Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) test viewed by Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott, community leaders and dignitaries, Stennis Acting Director Mark Craig and members of the media.

The SSME test was one highlight of O'Keefe's visit, which also included his addressing NASA personnel at an all-hands meeting, briefings by the NASA Earth Science Applications Directorate and Propulsion Test Directorate, and enjoying a taste of local cuisine and hospitality at a crawfish boil held in his honor.

At the SSME test, Sen. Lott joined O'Keefe and stayed for a media opportunity afterward, where O'Keefe told reporters that part of NASA's initiative in fiscal year 2003 is to develop propulsion systems and enough power to meet the distance and time challenges of exploring Earth's solar system.

"I see a tremendous future ahead for the opportunity to look at different ways, different technologies and different power-generation means that should keep the activities here [at Stennis] very, very aggressively employed over the course of time to come," said O'Keefe.

He called Stennis the "preeminent center" for propulsion test activity. Lott interjected that beyond test activities and rocket launches, society reaps "tremendous benefits" from NASA's missions.

He pointed to the remote sensing and Earth sciences programs at Stennis, saying that they have created jobs and brought millions of dollars into the American economy.

From left, Stennis Space Center Acting Director Mark Craig, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and U.S. Sen. Trent Lott are briefed by NASA's Robert Lightfoot, the recently named director of Stennis' Propulsion Test Directorate, on the critical role the unique facilities and people of Stennis play in rocket propulsion development for NASA and the nation.

From left, NASA's James Cluff, information technology manager for the Center Operations and Support Directorate, and NASA's Sharlene Kodrin, secretary for the Public Affairs Office, serve NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe a helping of crawfish during his visit to Stennis.

Stennis employees credited with creating greatest impact on local area

Figures indicating significant increases in Stennis Space Center's economic impact on surrounding communities in fiscal year 2001 were released at a news conference hosted Feb. 25 by Partners for Stennis. Partners is a group of Mississippi and Louisiana community leaders who support and enhance the development of agencies and programs at the center.

"Stennis' most profound impact can be found in our people," Mark Craig, acting director for the center, said. "While it may be easier to quantify the economic impact by talking about numbers, it is our people — those who sit on school boards, run girl and boy scout troops, serve as deacons in churches — who, to me, create the greatest impact."

Stennis Space Center is a significant source of employment and income in the the local area.

Stennis indirectly accounts for more than 28,000 jobs in the local area; increases personal income by $928 million and retail sales by $371 million.

Stennis produced an estimated $100 million in local government tax revenues in 2001.

Craig emphasized the center's work in the areas of technology transfer and education as well as in the intangible values of the fine work the center's

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NASA technology offers a gift of the past for the Mobile, Ala., tricentennial celebration

Using NASA-developed remote sensing technology, a partnership among NASA's Stennis Space Center, the University of Mississippi and the University of South Alabama could help researchers uncover lost historic details about the origins of Mobile, Ala. The city celebrates its 300th birthday this year.

Archaeologists hope to learn geographic information, including the location of French colonist Henri de Tonti's burial and Fort Louis, through remote sensing technology. Remote sensing, the observation of the Earth from distant vantage points and the analysis of that data, is valuable in this case for enabling non-invasive investigation of an historical site.

Greg Waselkov, the director of the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies, is leading the Old Mobile research as part of a joint project with the University of Mississippi. "The results are very interesting," Waselkov said of two large geographic abnormalities indicated by recent remote sensing data. "It seems possible that one or both of these anomalies are remnants of the fort's bastions."

The information gathered from the Mobile River bluff so far provides useful information not only for posterity but also for the validation of remotely sensed data. "At least one French colonial fence trench we discovered in an excavation two years ago was traceable on the [remote sensing] printout over a considerable distance," said Waselkov. Because this discovery shows a positive correlation between traditional excavation results and remotely sensed data, it helps verify the capabilities of remote sensing.

This remote sensing image of Old Mobile represents Landsat data being used by archaeologists to locate the sites of buildings once occupied by the French in the early 18th century.

An additional objective of the project is to transfer the use of remote sensing technology to commercial and research archaeologists. "NASA's role in projects like these is to provide the research and expertise to enable commercial vendors to provide more

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The Louisiana Technology Transfer Office (LTTO), hosted a visit March 11 by more than 50 Louisiana state legislators, company representatives, economic development officials and others to learn about LTTO's role as a Stennis resident agency. Participants, from left, were Billy Gothreaux; Jeffrey Oglesbee; Rep. Michael Jackson; NASA's Bill Parsons, director, Stennis Center Operations and Support Directorate; Rep. William B. Daniel IV; Rep. Ben Nevers; Don Hutchinson, Louisiana Secretary of Economic Development; Sen. Jay Dardenne; Rep. Ernie Alexander; Rep. A.G. Crowe; and Charlie D'Agostino, director, Louisiana Business and Technology Center.

NEWSCLIPS

Gregory to lead Office of Space Flight: NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has named former astronaut Frederick Gregory the associate administrator for Space Flight, placing him in charge of the Agency's Human Exploration and Development of Space Enterprise. Gregory, 60, has served as acting associate administrator for Space Flight since December, when he replaced Joseph Rothenberg, who retired.

NASA's Quickscat spacecraft turns operational: In a move to improve global weather forecasts and ultimately save lives and property, the United States and Europe have incorporated wind speed and direction data from NASA's Quick Scatterometer spacecraft — also known as Quikscat — into their operational global weather analysis and forecast systems. In recent years, data from the Quikscat, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., has proven useful in improving forecasts of extreme wind events, such as hurricanes, and in monitoring longer-term climatic effects such as El Niño. Quikscat's SeaWinds scatterometer instrument is a specialized microwave radar that continuously measures both the speed and direction of winds near the ocean surface in all weather conditions.

NASA helps fetal heartbeats sound loud and clear: By keeping track of some very small American hearts with a new, portable fetal heart monitor, NASA technology is relieving some of the worry of high-risk pregnancies. Researchers from NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va., worked with Baby Beats Inc. and Washington State University's Small Business Development Center — both based in Spokane — to transfer and develop aerospace technology created to better understand airflow over airplane wings into a portable, non-invasive, easy-to-use fetal heart monitor. The device sends signals from an at-home patient directly to the doctor's office over a phone line.

Computer software upgrades set stage for expansion

Now that a new generation of computer software is "booted up" and on the job, the International Space Station is ready for assembly of its next major components — a football field-sized structural backbone supporting power, cooling and mobile robotics systems.

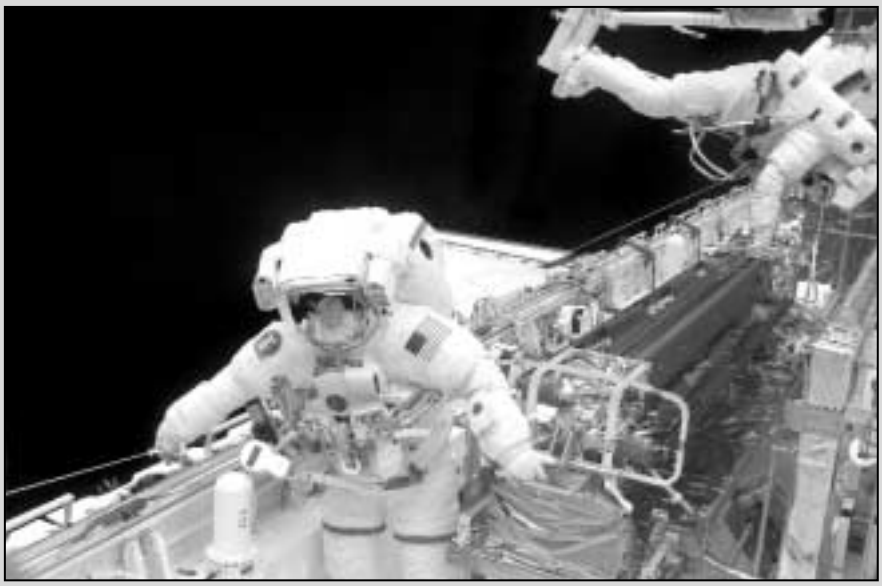
The product of years of planning, months of testing and the transfer of about 2,500 files, the new software is now in use aboard the orbiting laboratory.

The software prepares the space station for its new configuration with its main truss, which will support the station's solar arrays, radiators, mobile base system for the robotic arm and other equipment. The first element of the S0 truss is to be launched aboard Atlantis on STS-110 in April. The successful software upgrade had to be completed before Atlantis could be launched.

One of the major capabilities the new software is that it can activate equipment on the S0 truss, which will use Global Positioning System (GPS) data in the station's attitude control system. The new GPS capability will provide the primary guidance, navigation and control system of the station, transitioning Russian attitude-determination systems to a backup role.

The process had to be completed expeditiously because of the possibility of computer glitches resulting from incompatibility between the old and new software.

The technical name for the software package is the 8A Integrated Flight Load, named for the space station assembly-sequence flight for which it's required.



Astronaut John Grunsfeld (foreground), payload commander, is at one end of stowed solar panels in the cargo bay of the Space Shuttle Columbia, while astronaut Richard Linnehan, mission specialist, uses the Remote Manipulator System's robotic arm to move around at the other end. Astronauts conducted five spacewalks to perform repair work and installation of the solar array on the Hubble Telescope. The mission ended March 12 with Columbia's landing at Kennedy Space Center.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe presents the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal to Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess for his interim leadership of the Johnson Space Center over the past year. Estess is slated to return to Stennis to resume his duties as center director.

Changes in program leadership announced

Acting Stennis Space Center Director Mark Craig announced March 4 the appointment of Robert Lightfoot as director of the Propulsion Test Directorate. Lightfoot has been serving as the Directorate's deputy director. He replaces Boyce Mix, who retired in February.

Robert Lightfoot

"With Robert's forward-looking leadership and technical expertise in rocket propulsion testing, I am confident that the mission of the directorate will continue to grow and capitalize on new opportunities, techniques and approaches," Craig said.

Other changes in leadership roles in March included the transfer of long-time Environmental Officer Ron Magee to the Earth Science Applications Directorate (ESAD) in the capacity of acting deputy director. ESAD's Anne Peek was named lead for environmental office.

Craig said Magee will continue to serve in a limited fashion as the environmental officer for a few high-profile activities, such as the upcoming ISO audit.

A Day in the Life of . . . The Hi-Pressure Water Plant

Lockheed Martin's Ira Lossett, supervisor of the Mechanical Maintenance and Industrial Water Facility (HPIWF) at Stennis Space Center, listens intently as up to 14 large diesel engines rev up at the T-plus-one-hour mark in preparation to support either a Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) or an RS-68 engine test to be conducted on the A-2 or B-1 test stand. Lossett's test support crew of six specially assigned mechanical and electrical technicians are making the facility test-ready. Preparation includes clearing non-essential personal for around the critical operating engines, establishing procedural controls and establishing a communication link to the test conductor for immediate response to any critical need.

"Our job is to make sure all safety and environmental measures are followed and still maintain these big engines in the best possible condition. We do that in a scheduled manner to be ready to support all scheduled SSME and RS-68 tests," Lossett said. "Before every test, we are certain that we have done all we can do to protect the critical test equipment inside Building 4400. This equipment is critical to test-stand personnel safety, the test stand and the rocket engine, and the overall success of the test program.

"The Water Plant, as we are known, supplies the deflector cooling water and fire protection water to the test stands during tests," Lossett said. "We also have the capability of carrying the electrical power load of the test complex independently of commercial power. Safety of people, the equipment and the environment is and has always been our number one concern."

There are 10 Norberg diesel engines in Building 4400, each with a capacity of 4,600 horsepower. They drive water pumps capable of pumping 33,000 gallons of water per minute to the test stands. The replacement cost of an engine and pump is more than $3.5 million. The four generators are powered by Cooper Bessemers, producing 1.5 megawatts of power for emergency support to the test stands and with replacement values of $2.5 million each. Diesel fuel is stored and supplied to the engines from two 2,000-gallon and two 25,000-gallon double-walled diesel fuel tanks.

Piping from the facility to the test stands is an engineering marvel. Originally installed during the first phases of construction in the 1960s for the Saturn test program, the 96-inch diameter piping to the B-Complex is large enough for a small bus to drive through. The piping to the A-Complex is a 75-inch diameter line, which forks into two 66-inch diameter lines. One of each supplies water to the A-1 and A-2 test stands.

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From left, Lockheed Martin's mechanical technicians Todd Pearson, Terry Wactor and Kirby Campbell service one of the four Cooper Bessemers diesel engines.

Lockheed Martin's mechanical technician Tim Delcuze monitors a control board.

Lockheed Martin's mechanical technician Terry Wactor checks for leaks during a blow-down on one of the 10 Norberg diesel engines.

Lockheed Martin's mechanical technician Todd Pearson washes down and inspects one of four screens used to filter water from the reservoir.

Stennis celebrates 20th annual Special Olympics competition

More than 480 volunteers and 240 Special Olympics athletes from Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River and Stone counties participated March 16 in the Area III Special Olympics Games at Stennis Space Center. Dr. Paul Moersdorf, director of the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), was host of the 20th annual games at Stennis.

"The weather couldn't have been more wonderful," said Cheryl Firth of NDBC, coordinator of this year's event. "Every year, we look forward to the Special Olympics. This year was no exception. Support from resident agencies, contractors and community was outstanding."

Mississippi Space Services, The Boeing Company, OAO/ODIN and the Wellness Center at Stennis were among many supporters that generously supported the event with their time and their money.

Top-performing athletes in the Stennis games will go to the state games at Keesler Air Force Base in April.

"The benefits of the competition for the athletes are improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image," Firth said. "It is hard to define the benefits that the volunteers and sponsors receive. That is why so many come back to help each year."

A Stennis committee of representatives from NASA, Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Naval Oceanographic Office and NDBC coordinates the yearly event.

The Boeing Company's Dave Geiger, left, and NASA's Andrew Valente, right, encourages athlete Andrea Sanders during the softball throwing competition.

NASA's Dorsie Jones lines up a runner competing in the 50-yard dash.

Photo center left, Mississippi Space Services Kirk Bush, right, hands frisbees to athlete Timothy Cantu of Gulfport.

Above, NASA's Eric Traill, left, offers a word of advice to nine-year-old athlete Jordan Ladner.

Non-traditional roles highlighted in Women's History Month exhibit

March is Women's History Month. The Stennis Equal Employment Opportunity Office and the NASA Federal Women's Program Advisory Council are highlighting the careers of women at Stennis who work in jobs traditionally performed by men. A display will be posted in the main lobby of Bldg. 1100 later this month.

NASA's Desiree Thompson, administrative officer for the Earth Science Applications Directorate at Stennis, is coordinating the Federal Women's Program exhibit.

"These women have worked hard and made sacrifices to become who they are now," said Thompson. "We feel strongly about sharing their stories with others. The honorees are inspirational, not only for their non-traditional job roles, but also for their exceptional commitments to their careers."

Among those to be highlighted is Judy Sumrall, an electronics instrumentation technician for Rocketdyne/Boeing. She has worked on site for 17 years. "Our job is to retrieve information [about rocket engine tests] electronically and to process and store that information for each test," said Sumrall. "We record data on audio and video, and also by stress, temperature and vibration measurements. Then the data is distributed to the proper people for analysis."

Sumrall says she has drawn support over the years from her co-workers.

Amelia Keck, associate engineer for Engineering and Text Complex Services for Mississippi Space Services, also featured in the exhibit, credits her high school English teacher in part for encouraging high standards. "Mr. Avalon taught us to look at situations from every point of view and to stand up for what we believe is right," said Keck. She said she tries to "always be prepared," and that she has learned a thing or two from cartoons. "Bugs Bunny taught me that even the impossible is possible," she said.

NASA technology transfer project offers improvements in farming productivity, profits

A NASA-facilitated Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) partnership has resulted in a valuable service that may dramatically improve farming productivity and profitability.

Sibley Manufacturing Co. of Inverness, Miss., and Datastar Inc. of Picayune have teamed to use remote sensing, the observation of the Earth from a distance, to analyze crop conditions and prescribe farming applications. Their service increases cotton crop yields by 10 percent, decreases production cost, and allows crop-yield predictions as early as eight weeks after planting, within a 10 percent margin of error.

"Analyzing crop conditions manually, something done in the past, has become unmanageable for today's large properties," said Bill Sheppard, technology counselor for the Southeast Regional Technology Transfer Center at Stennis. "In addition to reducing time and labor, the Sibley-Datastar service produces scientific results that are more accurate and more reliable than those discerned by the human eye."

The Sibley-Datastar service, made possible by a NASA-facilitated partnership, also uses NASA technology. A reflectance imaging system based on data acquisition and processing methods developed by Dr. Greg Carter and Bruce Spiering at Stennis' Earth Science Applications Directorate measures crop health by detecting chlorophyll levels. The camera used for the collection of the data is a product of Duncan Technologies, a past SBIR participant. "I'm very pleased to see our approach being used in such a beneficial way," said Carter.

"This project is a success on many levels," said Sheppard. "The service offers remarkable economic benefits associated with farming, and the whole, ready-to-use product was researched and developed within two years. Other farming innovations have generally taken about a decade to implement."

NASA awarded the development contract to Sibley Manufacturing, a minority-owned business, and Datastar, a women-owned business, as part of the Office of Technology Transfer's mission to engage minority- and women-owned businesses in the SBIR. With NASA collaboration and

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Foley receives Federal Women's Program award

Rhonda Foley, quality engineer in NASA's Office of Safety and Mission Assurance at Stennis Space Center, has been named the Federal Women's Program Manager of the Year by the program's Federal Executive Board of New Orleans.

Rhonda Foley

Foley, who has been involved with the program for nine years, has served five years as the NASA Federal Women's Program Manager and four years as chairperson of the NASA Federal Women's Program Advisory Council.

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Stennis focuses attention on 23rd annual Black History celebration

The Stennis Space Center Association for Cultural Awareness (ACA) presented its 23rd annual Black History Month program, "Bringing Black History into Focus," on Thursday, Feb. 28, in the StenniSphere auditorium.

"The Black History Program is just one of the events the ACA celebrates yearly at Stennis," said Rhonda Foley, quality engineer in the NASA Safety and Mission Assurance Office. "It is very important that we continue such programs because these types of celebrations educate others on the heritage, traditions and customs of different cultures, which is why ACA was organized — to promote the awareness and understanding of the diverse cultures we have at Stennis.

"Other cultures the ACA celebrates include Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanic Heritage and Native American. The ACA also holds a universal celebration that started five years ago, International Day, normally held in October."

Foley chaired this year's Black History Month program. She said that the program

Ausettua Amenkum of Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective demonstrates traditional African instruments at the 23rd annual Black History Month Program, held Feb. 28.

was appealing because it showcased a wide variety of talent, which included participants from the local Stennis family.

"The 'Stennis Ensemble' delighted the audience with Gospel songs," said Foley. "The Ensemble is made up of employees representing various agencies and contractors at Stennis as well as different ethnic backgrounds and denominations."

Eric Dickey, councilman for Biloxi's Ward 2, served as master of ceremonies and introduced the featured speakers: Bishop Vance L. Woods, D.M., founder and pastor of Word of Power Ministries in Gulfport; and poet Sylvia Atlow Brookter of Slidell, La.

Rev. Woods' speech emphasized the importance of family unity and church involvement. He urged those in attendance to keep strong family values alive.

Brookter read poetry that celebrated the African-American culture. With some readings touching and others humorous, Brookter's presentation appealed to everyone in the audience.

The New Orleans-based Kumbuka Drum and Dance Collective provided featured entertainment.

For more information about ACA, call Rhonda Foley at 8-1081.

IMPACT. . .

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employees produce.

The annual report estimated that area employment would have been reduced by 28,293 jobs if Stennis Space Center had not been in operation during the last fiscal year. The estimate takes into account the direct global economic impact of $736 million, a 20 percent increase over last year, and indirect effects within a 50-mile radius of the space center that totaled $497 million, a 14 percent increase over last year. The area includes Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River counties in Mississippi, and St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana.

The report also showed that had Stennis not been in operation in fiscal year 2001, personal income would have been reduced by more than $928 million. Retail sales would also have been reduced by more than $371 million. The estimated tax revenue impact from the center on the local government income is $100 million.

The residential distribution of the center's 4,676 employees for fiscal year 2001 is as follows: 1,303 lived in Pearl River County, Miss.; 1,048 lived in Hancock County, Miss.; 1,023 lived in St. Tammany Parish, La.; 821 lived in Harrison County, Miss.; 231 lived elsewhere in Louisiana; 199 lived elsewhere in Mississippi; and 51 lived in states other than Mississippi or Louisiana.

Also, of the 4,676 employees at Stennis, 39 percent were involved in scientific and engineering fields; 29 percent were technicians or were involved in craft or production trades; 17 percent worked as business professionals; 9 percent held clerical positions and 6 percent were employed in other areas.

Among civil service and military employees, 6 percent held doctorate degrees; 20 percent held master's degrees; 33 percent held bachelor's degrees; and 9 percent held associate's degrees.

NASA's Boyce Mix, left, long-time director of Stennis Space Center's Propulsion Test Directorate, and Robert Lightfoot, then the PTD deputy director, react to a humorous presentation by Mark Craig, right, acting center director, at Mix's retirement reception Feb. 22. Mix retired after 40 years of service to NASA.

ESAD . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

accurate remote sensing products and services," said NASA's Marco Giardino of Stennis Space Center's Earth Science Applications Directorate. "Our office has trained a team at the University of Mississippi and they have invested in remote sensing technology. This project will improve efficiency and effectiveness, allowing the university to continue this and other remote sensing projects."

WATER PLANT . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

"Watching a test, visitors experience the awesome power of the rocket engine, but inside the High Pressure Industrial Water Facility, when the diesels are powered up to operating speed, the sensation rivals the experience of a rocket engine," Lockheed Martin's Anthony Taconi, director of test and engineering, said. "Personnel in the water plant are highly experienced and operate to proven procedures, ensuring all safety and environmental requirements are met. Through their dedication, Stennis can be assured that this key facility is ready to support our primary test mission."

Also operating out of the HPIWF is the mechanical support group. This group of 20 mechanical technicians performs preventative and corrective maintenance across the test complex and test support facilities. This maintenance effort is a critical requirement to keep the A-, B-, and now E-complexes operationally ready and functioning normally.

"The High Pressure Industrial Water Facility is a renowned element of Stennis' infrastructure," NASA's Robert Lightfoot, director of the Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis, said. "The operation has drawn notice for its consistent application of safety and environmental procedures, and the crew has won awards for its record of successful test support functions and activities."

Behind the HPIWF lies Stennis' seven-and-one-half acre reservoir. The lake holds 66 million gallons of water and can be supplied by pumping water from either the site canal system or from industrial wells. As part of Stennis' ground water conservation efforts, the preferred method is pumping canal water rather than well water. The large white cloud that forms during an engine test is water vapor from the deflector cooling water that is dispersed into the atmosphere by the heat and thrust of the rocket engine. The vapor cloud condenses into rain that falls back into the Stennis watershed and is recycled.

SAFETY CORNER

State looking out for signs of West Nile virus

In recent months, the West Nile Virus (WNV) has continued to spread across portions of the U.S. Although the virus has not been detected in Mississippi, it has been found in Georgia, Florida and Louisiana and is considered likely to be present in Mississippi.

Since birds are the natural host for WNV, which is passed to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes, the Mississippi State Department of Health is collecting reports of all dead birds through its Web site. Sightings of dead birds will be recorded and combined with reports from throughout the state to determine if the virus is in Mississippi. Because crows and blue jays appear to be most severely affected by WNV, the state may be interested in collecting them for testing.

Additional information on WNV, how to report sightings of dead birds and instructions on handling the birds may be found at *www.msdh.state.ms.us/epi/virus/*.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control makes the following recommendations for reducing the risk of contracting WNV:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET, since mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing.

QUICK LOOK

■ **The Center of Higher Learning will hold an informational meeting to discuss a possible MBA program** that could begin at Stennis this fall. The meeting is scheduled from 4:30 - 5:15 p.m., Thursday, April 4, in the Glazier Conference Room, Bldg. 1103. For more information, contact Keith Long via e-mail at Keith.Long@usm. edu or call Ext. 8-7662.

■ **The NASA Crawfish Boil is scheduled Friday, April 12** at the Cypress House pavilion beginning at 4 p.m. Advance tickets are $3; tickets at the door are $4. Children under 12 eat free. All take out orders are $4. For more information, call Bo Clarke at Ext. 8-1645.

■ **Stennis is undergoing a site-wide telecommunication system upgrade and database freeze**. During the freeze, there will be no telecommunication changes to phones or lines. The project is expected to be completed in May. Regular telephone services will not be interrupted. For more information, contact Terry Bordelon at Ext 8–2448.

■ **Stennis Mardi Gras Krewe 2002** won a third-place trophy at the Waveland Civic Association St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 9.

■ **The Stennis Child Development Center** is now taking names for 2002 Summer Camp. Interested parents should contact Creola James at Ext. 8-3224.

TECH . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

technical assistance, Mississippi Delta Community College secured a grant from the National Science Foundation to develop curricula for minority community college-level students to become agricultural specialists qualified to assist farmers in applying remote sensing technology to agricultural processes.

"The Sibley-Datastar project is a good example of a successful SBIR project," said Kirk Sharp, technology transfer manager at Stennis. "By facilitating partnerships among small businesses and research institutions, utilizing multiple NASA-developed technologies, and producing a whole, market-ready product, this SBIR project has unlimited potential for economic benefit."

FOLEY . . .

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"It is truly gratifying to see Rhonda get this well deserved recognition for her many years of hard work as Stennis' Federal Women's Program Manager," said Jean Rhodes, equal opportunity officer at Stennis.

Foley joined NASA in 1988 at Stennis, and is responsible for ensuring quality and engineering requirements through all phases of design, fabrication, testing and implementation for the Test and Technical Support Service contract.

LAGNIAPPE

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